

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086753

45

ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SY-10 M-03 A-01 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 L-03 PER-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00

TRSE-00 /085 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ MEX: TRMARTIN: AC

5/7/73 EXT 21317

APPROVED BY ARA/ MEX: CPTORREY

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R 081520 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 086753

E. O. 11652, N/ A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: PROTECTION OF U. S. EMPLOYEES ON BORDER

1. THE IBWC HAS A JOINT PROJECT TO KEEP THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER CHANNEL CLEAR OF BRUSH FOR PURPOSES OF FLOOD CONTROL. THE APPROXIMATELY 20- MILE BOUNDARY REACH OF THE RIVER IS ASSIGNED TO THE U. S. SECTION, AND THE 20- MILE REACH TO THE SOUTH IS ASSIGNED TO THE MEXICAN SECTION.

2. WHILE A CREW OF THE U. S. SECTION WAS ENGAGED IN THIS CLEARING WORK ON SATURDAY, MAY 5, THEY WERE SHOT AT BY RIFLE FROM THE MEXICAN SIDE. TWO SHOTS WERE HEARD. NO ONE WAS HIT. WORK WAS SUSPENDED.

3. LATER THAT DAY IN YUMA THREE MEN ACCOSTED ONE OF THE U. S. WORKMEN, STATING THAT THEY FIRED FIVE SHOTS AND WOULD KILL HIM IF FURTHER CLEARING WERE ATTEMPTED.

4. THE U. S. SECTION HAS REPORTED THE INCIDENTS TO THE COUNTY SHERIFF, U. S. CUSTOMS, AND THE MEXICAN COMMISSIONER. CUSTOMS STATES THAT THIS REACH IS AN ACTIVE
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PAGE 02 STATE 086753

SMUGGLING AREA. IT IS ASSUMED THE THREE MEN WANT TO PREVENT LOSS OF THE CONCEALMENT THE BRUSH PROVIDES.

5. THE U. S. SECTION CANNOT RESUME WORK UNTIL PROTECTION IS ENSURED. MEANWHILE CREW IS IDLE. THE MEXICAN COMMISSIONER IS MAKING INQUIRIES AND WILL REPORT TO FRIEDKIN. DEPENDING ON WHAT MEXICAN COMMISSIONER WANTS AND IS ABLE TO DO, DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE TO ASK EMBASSY TO TAKE UP MATTER WITH FOREIGN OFFICE. ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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